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*Nancy Hamman*  
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5 IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor: Kurt Clement  
Application No.: 09/518,787  
10 Filed: March 3, 2000  
Title: SOFTWARE DISTRIBUTION METHOD AND APPARATUS

15 Examiner: not yet known  
Art Unit: 2768  
Atty. Docket No.: 99.03776

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231  
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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Assistant Commissioner:  
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Please preliminarily amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A method of distributing software with a computer system to a  
user comprising the acts of:  
recording data on a fixed medium in the computer system;  
providing for transfer of the computer system to the user; and  
controlling access to the data through computer executable code that requires  
authorization for continued access to the data by automatically:  
detecting access to the data by the user, and  
querying the user's account, and if permission to continued access is verified,  
then enabling continued access to the data.